

FACT SHEET



Latham Well Site Latham, Missouri

July 2001

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 will begin excavating and sampling soil around the Latham Elementary School at 156 School Street, Moniteau County, Latham, Missouri this month. The purpose of this action is to remove pesticide contaminated or polluted soil from the premises, and to later install a water supply for the school's use. The environmental threats are pesticide-contaminated soils and ground water. The project is expected to run from mid summer until late fall.

SITE BACKGROUND

The Latham Well Site consists of less than 10 acres of land that includes the Latham Elementary School and its water supply well. Latham is a rural community with approximately 120 residents. There is no municipal water supply system in Latham. Consequently, everyone, including the elementary school, relies on private water-supply wells.

The school's water supply well was installed in 1949. A protective steel surface casing was installed 70 feet below the ground. It is on the west side of the school, approximately four feet west of the school building, and south of the front entrance to the school. It was observed that the steel surface casing was badly rusted.

In 1976, a termite infestation was observed in a wooden bookcase located on the first floor of the school building. The school's cement foundation had settled, resulting in cracks that developed in several areas. These cracks provided a pathway for termites to enter into the structure. To prevent further termite entry, pesticide chemicals were applied outside the building, along the foundation.

EPA's investigations have documented various pesticides in the soil on-site. The highest identified concentrations are in surface soils up to five feet away from the original school building. The pesticide contamination threatens the school faculty members, school children and maintenance personnel. The pesticide contamination is present in the school's well and in the surface soils, which are subject to direct contact. By removing the pesticide contaminated soil and installing a new water supply system for the school, there will be no threat to human health or the environment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

EPA encourages community members to review and comment on the Administrative Record File (a single file of all site related documents) for the Latham Well Site. The comment period runs through July 31, 2001. It is available during normal business hours at the following information repository:

Latham Elementary School Library
156 School Street
Latham, Missouri

EPA Region 7
Docket Room
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas

Written comments (postmarked by July 31, 2001) and questions about the site should be directed to:

Belinda Young
Community Involvement Coordinator
EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
1-913- 551-7003
Toll-free 1-800-223-0425
Fax: 1-913-551-7066
E-mail: young.belinda@epa.gov